large scale illicit wood has been transported from North-Eastern States in grab of illegal timber. Ministry of Environment and Forests has decided to constitute a multi-disciplinary team to probe into the matter. .

New Population Policy

1716. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Members of the Mahila Swasth Sangh (MSS) are doing a good work in rural areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government utilise their service for implementation of the new population policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government intends to secure the involvement of all voluntary women's groups, especially those functioning at the grasroot level like Mahila Swasthya Sanghs, for the implementation of the National Population Policy 2000.

LADD technique for back disc pain

1717. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new technique called Laser Assisted Disc Decompression (LADD), is now being introduced by doctors of New Delhi Hospitals for treatment of lower back disc pain in place of the conservative treatment including strong pain killers, rest and physiotherapy and ultimately surgery; and

(b) if so, what are the views of Government or new technique, its adoption and popularisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The technique called Laser Assisted Disc Decompressions (LADD) has not been introduced in Central Government Hospitals, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Hospitals of NDMC, MCD and Government of NCT of Delhi.

(b) The Laser Assisted Disc Decompression (LADD) is not an alternative to conservative treatment. LADD system is considered only in cases of failed